

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELcina PARISH**
65TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL
OUR LADY OF POMPEII CHURCH GROUNDS



JULY 25TH TO 29TH

COME ENJOY OUR *FAMOUS* PIZZA!

FOOD BOOTHS open at 5:30pm

GREAT RIDES & WRISTBANDS EVERY NIGHT

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, July 8 - Vigil – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Anthony Mauro
by Kathy Mauro
4:30pm SVDP David Boyle (Celebration of Life, 5th Ann.
Cancer Free)
by Wife & Children

SUNDAY, July 9 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Filomena Lavorgna
by Husband, Attilio
9:00am SB + Thomas Connors
by Jim & Marie Connors
10:00am OLOP + Sal Valente & Mychajlo Kuchnij
by Barbara
11:15am SVDP + Anthony D. Esposito
by Family

MONDAY, July 10 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Dante Ricciardi
by John & Brigida
8:00am SVDP + Louise Ortoleva
by Family

TUESDAY, July 11 – St. Benedict

8:00am OLOP + Frank & Connie Pietrosimone
by Jeffrey
8:00am SVDP + Fred Colloso
by Children, Grandchildren & Great-
Granddaughters

WEDNESDAY, July 12 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Josephine D'Argento
by Porto Funeral Home
8:00am SVDP + Anthony D. Esposito
by Family

THURSDAY, July 13 - St. Henry

8:00am OLOP + Anthony Mauro
by Jeffrey
8:00am SB + Paula Ann Marie Conte
by Husband, Calvin

FRIDAY, July 14 - St. Kateri Tekakwitha

8:00am SB + Ralph Vuolo, Sr.
by Wife & Family

SATURDAY, July 15 - Vigil – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm OLOP + Pat & Anthony DiLungo
by Family
4:30pm SVDP + Nicola Piscitelli
by Wife & Family

SUNDAY, July 16 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am OLOP + Ralph Mauro & Patty
by Kathy Mauro
9:00am SB + Richard Talbot
by Family
10:00am OLOP + Frances Dammiller
11:15am SVDP + Annette Talbot
by Family

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$11,151.00

Monthly Collection \$5,367.00

July 15 & 16 Second Collection:
None

Thank you to the many of you who have been so
generous and responsive in these difficult times.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-
14 (see 1)/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30
Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab/
Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/ Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, and
15/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3,
10-11, 18-19/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-
17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-
28, 39-40/Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4,
6-7/Mt 10:24-33

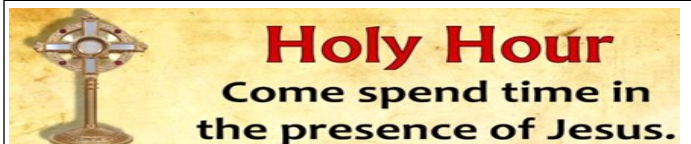
CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Our Lady of Pompeii: Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 3:30-4:00pm

SILENCE.

**Please, be mindful that many parishioners arrive early
prior to the start of Mass in order to sit reflectively with
the LORD in prayer. Please, be mindful of the level of your
voice and that voices carry from the back of the church to
the front. Please, maintain a subdued tone when speaking
so that other's quiet time is not disturbed.**



Every Monday, immediately following morning Mass at
Our Lady of Pompeii, there is one hour of **Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament.**

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Address: 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513

Phone Number: (203) 469-0764

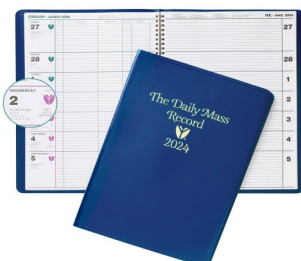
Office Hours:

Foxon Road: Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

Taylor Avenue: Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

**2024 MASSES -
SAVE THE DATE!**



The 2024 Mass Intention Book opened
on Thursday, June 1, 2023.
Kindly have your requests ready when
scheduling. We will continue to have a
limit of 3 weekend Masses per
individual booking.

**Payment due at time of
booking.**

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 9 No Events or Activities Scheduled	SUNDAY, JULY 16 No Events or Activities Scheduled
MONDAY, JULY 10 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Midnight Run - 7:00pm Contact Sue Stacey at 203-214-1762	MONDAY, JULY 17 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Christmas Crafters - 6:30pm at OLOP LOMR Contact Dawn Vittorio at 203-535-4091 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823
TUESDAY, JULY 11 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	TUESDAY, JULY 18 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
THURSDAY, JULY 13 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	THURSDAY, JULY 20 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
FRIDAY, JULY 14 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8	FRIDAY, JULY 21 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8
SATURDAY, JULY 15 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center	SATURDAY, JULY 22 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center



PARISH GET TOGETHER
St. Pio Pietrescina Parish
2nd Annual Parish Get Together
Tuesday, July 11
Amarante's Sea Cliff

A great opportunity for our parish family, representing 3 church campuses to break bread together before our parish carnival and food festival. A great social evening with great food music and drink.

For reservations, please call or text Mike Fimiani at 203.627.9216, or call Amarante's.
Please indicate St. Pio Parish Get Together.
RAIN DATE JULY 12.

You are cordially invited
To a Mass of
Thanksgiving of my 90th Birthday
By Father Timothy Meehan

Thursday July 27th 6 pm at
 St. Therese Church
 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven

As you know I will be celebrating my 90th Birthday on Thursday July 27th, 2023. I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your prayers, your friendship, your support and your patience with me; especially when my mistakes are obvious.

There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Therese Church 555 Middletown Ave. North Haven on Thursday, July 27th at 6 PM; a reception will follow with light refreshments. No gifts or donations are expected, this is my gift to you. PLEASE FEEL FREE to extend this invitation to anyone associated with me at one of the parts of the last 64 years of my Priesthood.

A special note to my relatives and friends: I do not expect you to travel to my birthday celebration. Because I am now fully retired, my time is much freer, I plan to visit you sometime this fall.

The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families

Chapel ~

Sacred Heart of Jesus ~

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~

Pascal Candle ~ Fr. John Lavorgna

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Balzano & Avitable Families

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo

Our Lady's Altar ~

St. Joseph's Altar ~

Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~

Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~

Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Helen Langello, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, Alan Poirier, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, Joseph Anyzeski, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Tina Marie Fionia, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Frances Polaski, Pauline Condon, Rose Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Denise Bailey, Joseph Peterson, Marion Mahl, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Brian Wilson, Maureen Redmond, Kristianne Argentino, Shirley Perrelli, Bill Izzo, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo, Patricia Miles, Joe Coscia, Deborah Verab, Dona Marie, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Angela Riccio, Charlene Tantalo, Al Forgione, Gabriella Garrity, Beverly Fucci, W.D. Merkle, Phyllis Anastasio, Cheryl Barbara, Laura-Phyllis Esposito, Diana Vitelli O'Brien, Meghan Keeney, Gennaro Milone, Jo Vuolo, Felicia DeRoche, Mike Barnett, Richard Costanzo, Carole & Frank Casapulla, Gerrie Amendola, Michael Bowen, Linda Montone, Mary Diamante, Carol Esposito, Fred & Barbara Brow, Christopher Farrell, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, Rudolph Pohlman, Linda Esposito, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Rosemary Riccitelli, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Roma Criscuolo, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Guy Brasile, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Filion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Filion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Carmine Riccitelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Ann Hamilton, Barbara Bellucci, Michael Bulger, Joseph Bonie, Mary Katherine Hart, Billy Carr, Andrea Pepe, Anna Sabatino, Audrey Elder, Theresa Polio, Mike Liso, John Mongillo, Sr., Bill Morrison, Juan & Family, Vern Kelly

Please send prayer requests to stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for **July** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **July 10th**. Donations of brown bag lunches, water, juice boxes and toiletries are appreciated. These donations can be dropped off to Sue Stacey's home, 82 Forbes Place, up until 7pm on **Monday, July 10th**. Thank you and God bless you for all donations. Stay safe & well.

**Midnight Run
Foxon Road Campus**

On the last Monday of each month, we bring 75 bagged lunches to the Columbus House Overflow Shelter.

Donations Needed:

ShopRite Gift Cards or

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags

Quart Size Ziploc Bags

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Juice Pouches

Raisin Boxes

Fruit Cups & Pudding Cups

Granola Bars

Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

We are also looking for small amounts or full skeins of yarn, it will be used to make hats and scarves for the midnight run. Please leave your donations at any entrance of the church. Thank you.

Midnight Run is the **LAST** Monday of **EVERY** month from Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 6-7 pm. Thank-you for being so generous!



St. Bernadette Food Pantry located at the East Shore Senior Center is open every Saturday from 10:00am-11:00am. We are always in need of non-perishable foods. Top choices are, canned: tomatoes, tomato sauce, vegetables, tuna fish, soups and fruits. Pasta, mac & cheese and peanut butter. Consumption guidelines provided to us from the CT Food Bank: Expiration/Code Date Extensions past expiration: high acid foods (i.e. tomatoes) 12-18 months. Low acid foods (canned meat, most vegetables) 2-5 years. Food in jars, 12 months past expiration, dry cereal 6-12 months, rice/pasta (dry) 1 year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for cereal and ramen noodles the months of June. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrances.

The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00am-11:00am on Saturdays & Tuesdays for East Haven residents.

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to deliver to one homebound senior in their neighborhood twice a month, if you are able to please call Christine at the below number.

From the Pastor's Pen
Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

A New Commandment:
"Love One Another"
John 13:31-35

&

The Greatest Commandment:
"Love Never Fails"
Matthew 22:34-40

For the past several weeks, we have been listening and watching the Jesus in St. Matthew's Gospel teaching and healing. The message is a teaching rooted in God's love as an invitation to listen, really LISTEN to the *Word* of God. For Matthew, the message of the *Beatitudes* must become the barometer by which men and women of faith live their lives and make their choices.

For St. Matthew, like St. Mark, those who LISTEN to the *Word* of God, healing as well as insight ensues. My question for the past several weekends has focused around the extent to which we really LISTEN to Jesus as he communicates to us, in and through our prayer life, and in our relationships with one another.

How does God's *Word* enable us to love according to Jesus' mandate? Does our relationship with Jesus enable us to love and accept and revere one another in the manner in which Jesus teaches? Perhaps, it is a good time to re-visit Jesus' command in both St. Matthew and St. John as an extension of the message that we have been listening to these past several weekends.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John (13:31-35).

What is "new" about the directive from Jesus to love? Its newness lies in its definition. To understand what Jesus truly meant by this instruction, we must re-visit the word *love*.



We have spent significant time reflecting on the Greek use of the word love. John was influenced by Greek philosophy. This influence can be seen in John's use of love (*agape*) in his reference to the "new commandment."

Another Look at Agape

Agape for the Greeks represented the highest and the most admirable form of love. *Agape* includes in its definition, unconditional acceptance and reverence for another. It is everything that *philia* is and more. *Agape* is the perfect kind of Love because it is this kind of Love that is associated with selflessness and self-sacrificing deeds with absolutely no need for reciprocity. In other words, *agape* drives one to attend to the needs of the other, without self-serving motives. *Agape* never expects to be rewarded in its execution. It is the kind of love that is received without merit and is totally unearned. This is the kind of love that God imparted to His creation.

- This is the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated in his relationship to his disciples.
- This is the kind of love with which Jesus embraced the sick, possessed and the broken individuals who sought him out for healing and wholeness.
- This is the kind of love that Jesus invites his 21st century disciples to demonstrate in their relationships with both friend and foe.
- This is the kind of *love* that enabled Jesus to endure his bloody passion and eventual crucifixion.
- This is the kind of *love* that sets followers of Jesus apart from the rest of the world.

In John's gospel, Jesus says, "This is how the world will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (13:35).



Such a powerful statement and with its power comes the responsibility to live *up to* and live *out* the reality of Discipleship. Each Christian is called by nature of his/her baptism to "keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart." This flame of faith is none other than the love of God given freely and without personal merit through Jesus Christ. It is this love that must be demonstrated and kept alive in relationships with all others.

Call to Discipleship

It becomes a daily challenge to embrace the call to Discipleship and to demonstrate the compassionate mercy of Jesus even during the unexpected *trial and tribulations* of daily living. Followers of Jesus are called to transcend the obstacles of human nature by drawing upon God's grace and the assurance that with His love everything is possible.



In the midst of a world that has become indifferent and perhaps, even anesthetized in its recognition of the dignity of human life and the reverence deserving of every human being, it is far too easy to become self-absorbed with emotional hurts that result from either *perceived* injustices or actual losses. Self-absorbed thoughts, too often perpetuate self-destructive behaviors that insulate the soul from receiving and accepting God's healing grace. Jesus' disciples in the 21st century are given a higher calling: "*Love one another, as I have loved you.*"

The Call to Unconditional Love

Postmodern disciples are called to live the *Good News* and to become an extension of the *Risen Lord*. This includes the treatment of others with unconditional love and reverence. Man is called to pursue and to demonstrate that type of *Love (agape)* that is creative, healing and constructive.

Unlike the highest form of human love whereby man seeks self-perfection in what is noble and physical, *agape* comes from God to each of us through Jesus Christ. It is a love (*agape*) that is unmerited, unconditional and unrestrictive. *Agape* knows neither limitations nor boundaries and can only be thwarted by a hardened heart or an unreceptive soul.



Agape seeks nothing in return; it is neither merited nor deserved. The only prerequisite for its reception is an accessible *human spirit* that *yearns* for wholeness and completeness; healing that can never be found in the world.

St. Matthew and Love

John's account of the "new commandment" goes hand and hand with Matthew's gospel account of Jesus' response to the inquiring scribe who questions Jesus with regard to the "greatest commandment" (22:36-39).

Once again, Jesus is presumably set up by the Pharisees who send a scribal lawyer to trick Jesus. The young man wants Jesus to tell him the one precept of the entire Torah that is of greatest importance. Jesus does something, which is truly incredible. He takes two parts of the Torah and combines them into a single statement:

- Love of God (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- Love of neighbor (Leviticus 19:18).

Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus says:

"You must love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus places the love of God side-by-side with the love of neighbor; thus, demonstrating that one is not possible without the other. In addition, Jesus goes on to tell the young scribe that these two commandments are not only of great importance, they actually encompass the entire Torah.

As was true in John's account, Matthew uses the Greek word *agape* in Jesus' response to the young scribe. The type of love that Jesus expects from his disciples is also described by Paul in his *Letter to the Corinthians* in which Paul says:

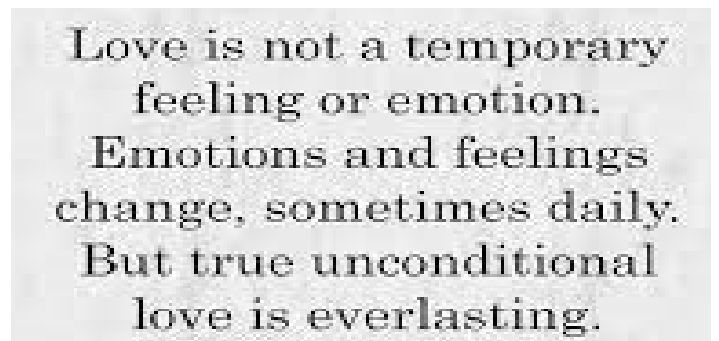
"Brothers and sisters, strive [as you will] eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I will show you a still more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12:31).

The "*more excellent way*" about which Paul speaks is the way of love. The true mark of the follower of Jesus is seen in his/her ability to love. In the absence of love (*agape*), man accomplishes nothing in life. Paul lists the characteristics of *Love when he says*:

"Love is patient, love is kind, it's not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is never rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, nor does it rejoice over wrongdoings, but love rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, it hopes all things, it endures all things; Love never fails" (I Corinthians 13:1-7).

Is Love Simple?

Paul makes the demonstration of love and loving appear so simple and matter-of-fact. As we look at postmodern society, we often do not see people who either convey or demonstrate the kind of love about which Paul speaks. When we happen to catch a glimpse of love in action, from time-to-time, or hear about love, all too often it is associated with the *soap opera image* of love that seeks only pleasure and is short-lived.



"*Love never fails,*" says Paul. Such a strong statement coming from Paul who sounds so certain. And yet, are we not as certain that love *does* appear to fail each time, we witness man's inhumanity toward man; each time a marriage fails; each time a child is abused or neglected; each time a hate crime is committed; each time God is left out of His creation?

Could it be that Paul was naive with regard to love gone bad, or could it be that Paul lived in a perfect society? Or rather, could it be that failed love and *love-less-ness* result from a situation, or an experience in which authentic love (*agape*) never really existed? The last statement is of course what Paul is telling his listeners.



The type of love that lasts is that type of love that is unconditional, selfless; a love that never expects repayment. It is the kind of love that keeps giving even when it hurts to give. It's the kind of love that is never misunderstood for passionate or erotic love. It is the type of love that seeks only to build up, create, heal and make whole. It is *agape*.

An Invitation From Jesus

The gospel account of John and Jesus' message to the young scribe in Matthew's account are presented as an invitation to 21st century disciples. Jesus extends this invitation to each of us, which, if not heeded will become an indictment on how we live our lives:

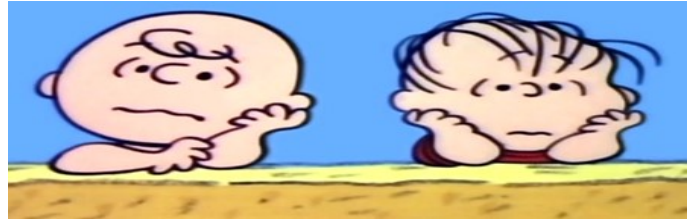
"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).



Embracing real love (*agape*) is the challenge for 21st century Christians. It means that each is called to strive for truth and to refuse to settle for those aspects of life that lead to compromise or complacency. Man must *diligently* strive to live the *Good News* and in doing so, to make the *Word* of God a testimony to how he lives his life. **JNM**

SOMETHING TO PONDER



Prayer: *How do You Pray?*

The Intercessory Prayer of Jesus *St. Matthew 11:25-30*

In the Gospel for this weekend, St. Matthew's Gospel provides us with what is referred to as the *Intercessory Prayer of Jesus*; one of the five forms of prayer. Jesus, first prays a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to all that the Father has bestowed upon him as well as upon his faithful followers. He continues to praise the Father and His sovereignty for hiding the *truths of the kingdom* from those who "*think themselves wise and clever.*" Instead, God reveals Himself to the "*childlike.*" In other words, Jesus makes the distinction between those who are proud and those who are humble; those who dismiss the *Word* of God when they hear it and those who are humble enough to recognize that upon hearing God's *Word*, they need to make changes in their lives.



How do you respond upon hearing God's *Word*? How do you pray? What kind of prayers do you say?

Prayer is our spiritual tool for discernment; for becoming *in sync* with God's plan for each of us. What is your prayer life like?

- ◆ Do you have a prayer life?
- ◆ Do you remember to say your evening prayers, prior to going to bed?
- ◆ Do you raise your voice in prayer each morning as you begin a brand-new day?
- ◆ Do you remember to say *Grace* before meals?
- ◆ Do you thank God for the many blessings that he has given to you? If so, how often? If not, why?
- ◆ Do you blame God for what has gone wrong in your life?

What is your prayer life like?

Are you a person who prays only when you want something from God? When your prayer request is not forthcoming, do you despair, do you stop praying, do doubts about God's existence creep into your mind merely because He does not respond to you as quickly as you think He should?



Five Kinds of Prayer

There are five kinds or forms of prayer that each of us engage in. Which kind of prayer do you most-of-the-time engage in?

- ♦ **Adoration or Praise:** In this type of prayer, we acknowledge the greatness of God, His unconditional love and mercy. We also acknowledge our unworthiness in the midst of His unconditional love.
- ♦ **Contrition:** In this form of prayer, we acknowledge to God our sorrow for our continued offenses against his compassionate and merciful love and protection. We ask for forgiveness and promise, yet again, to sin no more.
- ♦ **Petition:** In this form of prayer, we bring our requests before God, asking for the things that we need; both spiritual and physical in nature. At times we might also make a deal with God that should He grant my request (s), I would then do something for Him, such as attend Mass every Sunday, stop cursing, or strive to be a better, kinder, more caring person.
- ♦ **Thanksgiving:** This is perhaps the most neglected form of prayer in which we thank God for the many blessings that he has in the past and continues in the present to bestow upon us. How often, for example, do we pause before a meal to offer a prayer of gratitude to God for the food that we are about to eat, perhaps, the individual(s) who has prepared it for me and also, for those with whom I may be sharing the meal? How often do we rise on any given day thanking God for another day to breathe the air, gaze at the sky, see a child at play, kiss a loved one?
- ♦ **Intercession:** In this form of prayer, we pray on behalf of another or others. We pray for another's health, well-being, happiness, etc.

**Pray not because
you need something
but because you have
a lot to thank God for!**

God always hears our prayers. Always! And He *always* responds. However, He does not always respond in the ways we expect or think that He should. Sometimes, God's answer is: "*Maybe*," other times, He responds by saying, "*Not right now*," and other times He responds by saying, "*No!*" He does so, *not* because He thinks that we need to be punished. Rather, He responds with a "*No*" because He has something greater in store for us.

Jesus tells his disciples, "*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*" (Matthew 18:20). Take time out of your busy schedules to raise your voice to God in prayer. But when you do, be sure that your heart is pure, and that you have not failed in charity or in forgiving another. Be sure that your words throughout your day are always helpful, healing and supportive. If they are not, resolve to try harder the next day to overcome whatever it is in *your* life that causes *you* to be critical or judgmental of others. Prayer will result in a new way of looking at life, at others and at God. Try it, you will be changed! **JNM**

LILY OF THE MOHAWKS

“LOOK AT THIS
CROSS; OH! HOW
BEAUTIFUL IT IS!
IT HAS BEEN MY
WHOLE HAPPINESS
DURING MY LIFE,
AND I ADVISE YOU
ALSO TO MAKE
IT YOURS.”

-ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



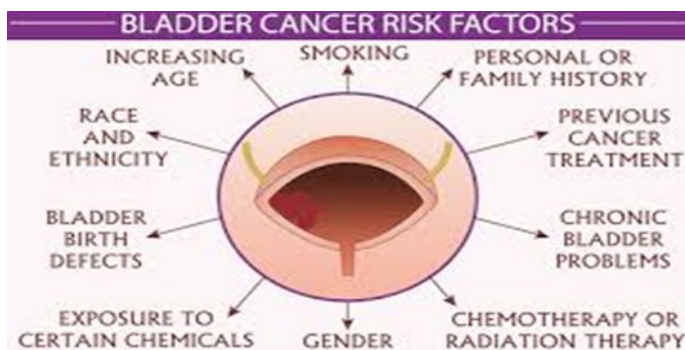
From the Pen of the Parish Nurse
Kimberly Petrillo, R.N.

Bladder Cancer

July is *Bladder Cancer Awareness Month*. In 2020, the latest year for which data is available, in the United States, 70,306 new cases of *Urinary Bladder Cancer* was reported and 16,682 people died from this cancer. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease. One out of every 5 deaths in the United States is due to cancer (CDC.gov).



Bladder cancer is a common type of malignance that begins in the cells of the bladder. The bladder is a hollow organ in the lower abdomen that stores urine. Bladder cancer most often begins in the cells (*urothelial cells*) that line the inside of the bladder. Urothelial cells are also found in the kidneys and the ureters that connect the kidneys to the bladder. Urothelial cancer occurs in the kidneys and ureters too; however, it is more common in the bladder.



Bladder cancer comes into being when certain cells in the tissue that lines the bladder mutate or change, becoming abnormal cells. These cells then multiply and cause tumors in the bladder. If left untreated, bladder cancer may proliferate through the bladder walls to nearby lymph nodes and then to other areas of the body, including the bones, liver and lungs.

Most bladder cancers are diagnosed at an early stage when the cancer is highly treatable. This type of cancer has a high recurrence rate so follow up tests after treatment are necessary. Approximately, 75% of early-stage bladder cancer reoccurs.

Different types of Bladder Cancer

There are 3 types of bladder cancer. Each type is named for the cells that line the wall of the bladder where that cancer started. Bladder cancer types include:

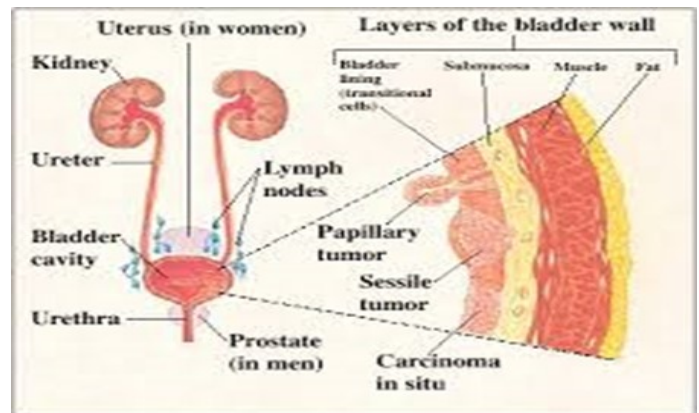
Transitional cell carcinoma. This cancer starts in transitional cells in the inner lining of the bladder wall. Approximately, 90% of all bladder cancers are transitional. In this type of cancer, abnormal cells spread from the inner lining to other layers deep in the bladder wall, lodging themselves into fatty tissues that surround the bladder. This bladder cancer type is also referred to as *Urothelial Bladder Cancer*.

Squamous cell carcinoma. These cells, referred to as *Squamous Cells* are thin, flat cells that line the inside of the bladder. This bladder cancer accounts for about 5 % of bladder cancers and typically occurs in people who have had long bouts of bladder inflammation or irritation.

Small Cell Carcinoma of the Bladder. This extremely rare type of bladder cancer affects about 1,000 people in the U.S.

Adenocarcinoma. Adenocarcinoma cancers are cancers in the glands that line the organs, including the bladder. This too, is a very rare type of bladder cancer, affecting 1% to 2% of bladder cancers.

Sarcoma. A rare cancer, which is a soft tissue cancer that starts in the bladder muscle cells.



Signs & Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of bladder cancer include the following:

•**Blood in the urine.** This is the most common symptom of bladder cancer and occurs in the vast majority of people with bladder cancer. Having blood in the urine does not mean the person has cancer, it can indicate, however, other conditions such as an infection. Blood in the urine should always be evaluated by a doctor.

Other symptoms include:

- Loss of appetite and weight
- Back pain
- Abdominal pain

- Urinary urgency or pain with urination
- Persistent bladder infections

Causes of Bladder Cancer

Healthcare professionals and researchers do not know why certain bladder cells mutate and become cancerous. Some of the factors that may increase the risk of developing bladder cancer may include:

- Cigarette smoking.** Smoking cigarettes more than doubles the risk for developing bladder cancer. Smoking pipes and cigars, being exposed to second-hand smoke may also increase the risk.
- Radiation exposure.** Radiation therapy to treat cancer may increase the risk of developing bladder cancer.
- Chemotherapy.** It is believed that certain chemotherapy drugs may increase the risk.
- Frequent bladder infections.** People who have frequent bladder infections, bladder stones or other urinary tract infections may be at an increased risk of squamous cell carcinoma.
- Exposure to certain chemicals.** Studies indicate that people who work with certain chemicals used in dyes, rubber, leather, paint and some textiles and hairdressing supplies may have an increased risk.
- Chronic catheter use.** People who have a chronic need for a catheter in the bladder may be at risk for squamous cell carcinoma.



Diagnosis

A series of tests are used to diagnose bladder cancer, which include:

- Urinalysis.** Providers use a variety of tests to analyze urine.
- Cytology.** Providers examine cells under a microscope for signs of cancer.
- Cystoscopy.** This is the primary test to identify and diagnose bladder cancer. For this test, providers use a pencil-size tube with a light on it that is referred to as a cystoscope to view the inside of the bladder and urethra. A fluorescent dye and a special blue light are often used to make it easier to see the cancer in the bladder. Providers may also take tissue samples while doing the cystoscopies.



If a urinalysis, cytology and cystoscopy results indicate that a person has bladder cancer, health care providers will usually conduct additional testing to learn more about the specific cancer. These tests may include:

- MRI Test.** This imaging test uses a magnet, radio waves and a computer to take detailed images of the bladder.
- CT Scan.** This test is conducted to see if cancer has spread outside of the bladder.
- Transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TURBT).** Doctors conduct this procedure to remove bladder tumors from the bladder for additional tests. TURBT procedures may also be part of the treatment; removing bladder tumors before the tumors can invade the bladder's muscle wall. This test is an outpatient procedure conducted under spinal or general anesthesia.
- Chest x-ray.** This test assesses for the spread of the cancer to the lungs.
- Bone scan.** Like a chest x-ray, bone scans check for signs that the bladder cancer has spread to the bones.

Treatment

Treatment options for bladder cancer depend on a number of factors, including the type of cancer, grade of the cancer, the stage of the cancer and overall health. Bladder cancer treatment may include:

- Surgery** to remove the cancer cells. A radical cystectomy removes the bladder and surrounding organs. This surgery is usually done when the cancer has spread outside of the bladder or if more than one tumor is found in the bladder. Healthcare providers can also remove a tumor using a high-energy electricity to burn it away with a process known as fulguration.
- Chemotherapy in the bladder** (intravesical chemotherapy) to treat cancers that are confined to the lining of the bladder but have a high risk of recurrence or progression to a higher stage.
- Chemotherapy for the whole body** (systemic chemotherapy) to increase the chance for a cure in a person having surgery to remove the bladder, or as a primary treatment when surgery is not an option.
- Radiation therapy** to destroy cancer cells. This procedure is often undertaken as primary treatment when surgery is not an option.
- Immunotherapy** In order to trigger the body's immune system to fight cancer cells, either in the bladder or throughout the body.

- **Targeted therapy** to treat advanced cancer when other treatments have failed.

Self-Care & Detection

What can I do to take care of myself?

- As always it is most important that a **healthy diet** is followed.
- Maintain connections with other people.
- Focus on high-fiber foods.
- Limit red meat intake (beef, pork, sausage).
- Exercise regularly.
- Maintain a positive attitude (in-spite of having a bad day) (clevelandclinic.org.; mayoclinic). KP



Parish nurse can be contacted via email kimp51@comcast.net or mobile 203-980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.

Diabetes Education & Self-Management

The parish nurse will be co-teaching a class titled, "Diabetes Self-Management." It is a 6-week class geared to individuals living with pre-diabetes, diabetes or who live with someone who has the condition. The class will teach about the disease and how to be a support to individuals with diabetes.

Contact Kim directly to sign up to take the class. Class will be offered in late August.

SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED



Although the holidays have passed, the food prices continue to rise, several of our parishioners are having trouble buying food as they *struggle* to purchase other household necessities and pay for rent and utilities.

Grocery Shopping cards in any denomination to any of the local supermarkets would help me help members of our parish family, who are in need of assistance for the purchase of food. These gift/shopping cards can be dropped into the collection basket or brought to the parish office. Whatever you can do, is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance. JNM



Tuesday, July 25 – Saturday, July 29

The **66th Annual St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Carnival** takes place Tuesday, July 25 thru Saturday, July 29 on Our Lady of Pompeii Church grounds.

Our Annual Carnival features rides for all ages, games, a variety of delicious foods and our *famous fried dough pizza*.

If you have attended in the past, you know our carnival only takes place through the help of hundreds of volunteers.

We invite all members of our St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish family from Our Lady of Pompeii, St. Bernadette and St. Vincent de Paul to *help us make this year another success by volunteering a few hours of your time.*

Volunteers are needed in our food and pizza booths, game booths, set-up and breakdown, hospitality and clean up.

If you would like to volunteer one or more nights, please contact Dawn Vittorio @ 203-535-4091 or dawn.vittorio@gmail.com or Patti Scussel at 203-710-7886 or parscussel@aol.com.

All volunteers must be Virtus trained. If you are not Virtus trained, Virtus training is now online.

An **all-volunteer meeting** will be held on Monday, July 17 at 7pm in the Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall.

PLEASE join us in making this year's Carnival the best-ever!



VISIT THE HOLY LAND

JANUARY, 2024

WITH FR. MURASSO

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG

**GET YOUR BROCHURE &
RESERVATION FORM SOON**



**A Holy Land Pilgrimage IS A
ONCE-AND-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE. This
fantastic pilgrimage departs on January 30,
for 10 spiritually uplifting day!**

Interested perspective travelers should contact Fr. Murasso, ASAP. For a brochure while there are still seats left. Visiting: Caesarea, Haifa, Tiberias, Mount of Beatitudes Golan Heights, Samaria & Jacob's Well, Sea of Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and so much more!

Package Price: \$3099

Government Taxes & Airline Surcharge: \$700

TOTAL PACKAGE: \$3799.00

Includes: Air, Hotels, Breakfast and Dinner

**RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS
INCREDIBLE JOURNEY!**

**IS THE LORD CALLING YOU TO VISIT HIS
HOMELAND? TO WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS FOR
10 DAYS?**

Contact Fr. Murasso at the parish for a **Brochure and
Reservation Form.**



**SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH
PRAYER GARDEN**



THE KNIGHT'S OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL #44 OF SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH CAMPUS OF ST. PIO PIETRELCINA PARISH IS NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR ENGRAVED BRICKS TO BE PLACED IN OUR BEAUTIFUL **PRAYER GARDEN** AT ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH.

**PURCHASE AN ENGRAVED BRICK FOR
PLACEMENT IN OUR GARDEN TO REMEMBER
A DECEASED FRIEND OR RELATIVE.**

BRICKS COME IN TWO SIZES:

**1.4X8: \$250 AND ALLOWS 3 LINES WITH 13
SPACES IN EACH LINE.**

**2.8X8: \$300 AND ALLOWS 6 LINES WITH 13
SPACES IN EACH LINE.**

PLEASE, NO NICKNAMES.

100 PERCENT OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR PARISH. *We thank you in advance for your support.*

**TO ORDER BRICKS OR ANY QUESTIONS
CONTACT:**

**MICHAEL FIMIANI AT 203-627-9216 OR
RALPH ESPOSITO AT 203-481-8238.**

***ORDER FORMS CAN BE EMAILED TO YOU
UPON REQUEST. PAYMENT DUE UPON
SUBMISSION OF ORDER FORM.***

CHECKS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

K OF C RODRIGO COUNCIL #44

**LAST DAY TO ORDER A BRICK WILL BE
LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023.**

Ladies Guild

Hello everyone!

Dawn Scussel Vittorio has organized a Christmas ornament group to make ornaments to sell at our annual Ladies Guild Christmas Fair..

They are meeting in the Lower Office Meeting Room at Our Lady of Pompeii the 3rd Monday of the month @ 6:30pm

The dates are July 17, August 21, September 18, & October 16..

Please reach out to Dawn @ 203-535-4091..



Thank you so much Dawn for organizing this group..



Save the date for the Christmas Fair November 11 & 12...



Watch the weekly bulletin for updates and info



Celebration of St. Clare



August 10-11
St. Bernadette Church Grounds

SERVING AUTHENTIC ITALIAN
CUISINE
& RAFFLE DRAWING

FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

IT'S ~~NOT~~
TOO LATE!

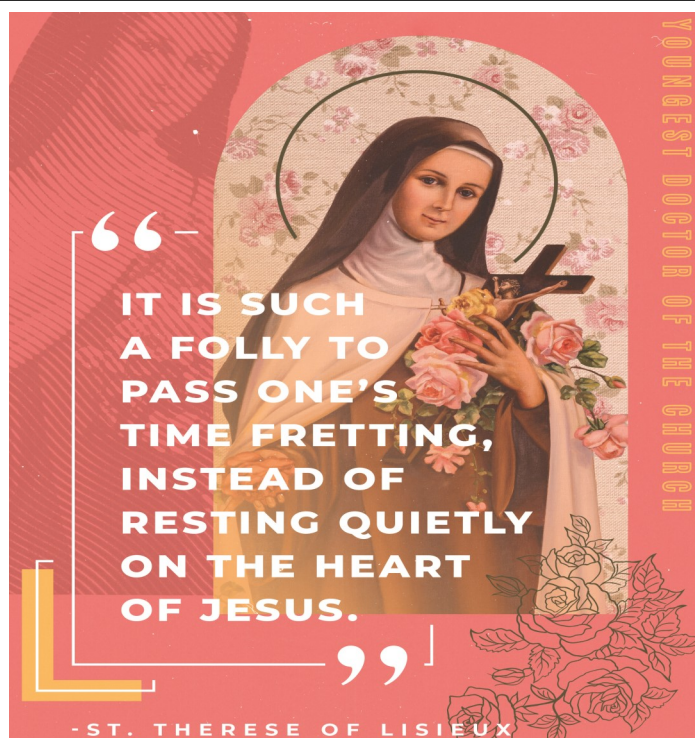
ARCHBISHOP ANNUAL APPEAL

This year the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is more critical than ever! State and Federal resources have become more and more limited. Across the Archdiocese of Hartford more people need our help. If you have yet to make a donation, please consider doing so. **YOUR DOLLARS COME BACK TO OUR PARISH AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRIES THAT OUR PARISH SUPPORTS.** It's not too late.

Your contribution will provide funds to four local ministries:

- St. Bernadette Food Pantry,
- East Haven Food Pantry
- St. Gianna Pregnancy Recourse Center.
- Our Blessed Mother's Arms Pregnancy Resource Center.

If you have not done so, please make a contribution to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. **Please indicate the parish name so that the above 4 ministries can receive funding.** The more that our parish gives to the Appeal, the more dollars these ministries receive.



“

IT IS SUCH
A FOLLY TO
PASS ONE'S
TIME FRETTING,
INSTEAD OF
RESTING QUIETLY
ON THE HEART
OF JESUS.

”

- ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

YOUNGEST DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Fr. Murasso's Message Board

RAFFLE TICKETS

It's that time of the year. **RAFFLE TICKETS!** We have another fantastic raffle this year with the Grand Prize of \$10,000! Who among us can't use \$10,000? The raffle drawing will be on Friday, August 11, at 8:00pm on the St. Bernadette Church Grounds.

Extending the raffle to August gives us additional time to sell tickets. **Please, please** support our raffle! We cannot do this without everyone doing their part to make this raffle a success. **We stand to profit just under \$100,000** if all our registered parishioners do their part. We are asking that you **buy or sell** the two books (10 tickets per book) that are enclosed in the white envelopes at the entrance of our churches.

Each ticket is \$5.00 as in the past. **Please, pick up your envelope on the way out of church.** In the past, as you know, we have mailed the raffle tickets; however, with the cost of postage, this is a great expense that detracts from our *desperately needed profit*.

The raffle along with the annual carnival and *Food Fest* honoring St. Clare are the only fundraisers that we conduct annually. The funds raised help us get through the winter months. JNM



Registrations Due July 17th

Bible Camp 2023

Return Registrations to either office or drop in
Collection Basket

August 7-11 from 9:00am-12:30pm

Our Lady of Pompeii Campus 355 Foxon Rd. East Haven

Students in Grades K - 6

**Camp Counselors: Grades 7-12 Fun Service
Hours**

**Visit our Website for Registration Forms or pick up at
either office:**

[https://stpfofpietrelcinaeh.com/religious-education/
biblecamp](https://stpfofpietrelcinaeh.com/religious-education/biblecamp)

**Contact: Sally Mucka at saintpio.rcia@gmail.com or cell: 203
-415-2710**

Adult Help Needed too!

MASS SCHEDULE



July 8 & 9, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick

9:00am SB: Fr. Murasso

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

July 15 & 16, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Patrick

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Murasso

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Borino

9:00am SB: Fr. Patrick

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

July 22 & 23, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

9:00am SB: Fr. Borino

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick



SAVE THE DATE

St Pio of Pietrelcina Women's

ACTS Retreat

September 21 to

September 24, 2023

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, Farmington,
CT.

More details to follow



Have you recently lost a friend or family member?
Are you having difficulty concentrating and enjoying everyday
activities?

Rajnet352@comcast.net or Phone: 713-898-2563
Barbara Natarajan